



5

HER MAJESTY'S *Dog*

Story & Art by MICK TAKEUCHI

HER MAJESTY'S Dog

HYOUE, COME HOME...

The kingdom's magic has been broken, and Hyoue's powers are out of control. He understands he returns to the village where it all began—unleashing a flood of memories about the origin of his relationship with Anami. Meanwhile, Anami must once again take part in the village's annual ceremony to face a contemporary crisis. With no allies on her side and a malicious knight on her horizon, can she muster enough strength to reach home by herself? *From the author of **Blue Exorcist***

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AGE
OT
16+

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RED'S

HER MAJESTY'S LAW

NO LAW OF THE HAPPIER

UPON THE WANGARA

SONS

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HER MAJESTY'S Dog

5



Translation – Christine Schilling
Adaptation – Jake Forbes
Lettering & Retouch – James Dashiell
Production Assistant – Mallory Reeves
Production Manager – James Dashiell
Editor – Audry Taylor

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e-mail: info@gocomi.com

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HER MAJESTY'S *DOG*

STORY AND ART BY
MICK TAKEUCHI

VOLUME 5



go!Comi

Concerning Honorifics

At Go! Comi, we do our best to ensure that our translations read seamlessly in English while respecting the original Japanese language and culture. To this end, the original honorifics (the suffixes found at the end of characters' names) remain intact. In Japan, where politeness and formality are more integrated into every aspect of the language, honorifics give a better understanding of character relationships. They can be used to indicate both respect and affection. Whether a person addresses someone by first name or last name also indicates how close their relationship is.

Here are some of the honorifics you might encounter in reading this book:

-san: This is the most common and neutral of honorifics. The polite way to address someone you're not on close terms with is to use "-san." It's kind of like Mr. or Ms., except you can use "-san" with first names as easily as family names.

-chan: Used for friendly familiarity, mostly applied towards young girls. "-chan" also carries a connotation of cuteness with it, so it is frequently used with nicknames towards both boys and girls (such as "Na-chan" for "Natsu").

-kun: Like "-chan," it's an informal suffix for friends and classmates, only "-kun" is usually associated with boys. It can also be used in a professional environment by someone addressing a subordinate.

-sama: Indicates a great deal of respect or admiration.

Sempai: In school, "sempai" is used to refer to an upperclassman or club leader. It can also be used in the workplace by a new employee to address a mentor or staff member with seniority.

Sensei: Teachers, doctors, writers or any master of a trade are referred to as "sensei." When addressing a manga creator, the polite thing to do is attach "-sensei" to the manga-ka's name (as in Takeuchi-sensei).

Onii: This is the more casual term for an older brother. Usually you'll see it with an honorific attached, such as "onii-chan."

Onee: The casual term for older sister, it's used like "onii" with honorifics.

[blank]: Not using an honorific when addressing someone indicates that the speaker has permission to speak intimately with the other person. This relationship is usually reserved for close friends and family.



~ Sweet life de à dog ~

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EAST OF CHARACTERS



AMANE KAMORI

There's much more to this high school first year girl than meets the eye. Amane comes from a rural village where magic and superstition are still a way of life. She is a "Matsukun," a medium who can control anyone or anything using "kotodama," or word magic. The most powerful of her kind, Amane was both revered and feared at home. In order to escape the oppressive ways of her clan, Amane moves to Tokyo with her guardian, Hyoue, and tries to live a normal life as a student. Adjusting to city life isn't easy for Amane, and neither is keeping her powers a secret. But for a chance of living a normal life, it's worth the risk!

HYOUE INUGAMI

Hyoue is a Koma-Oni, a guardian demon whose sole purpose in life is to protect his master. Currently, Hyoue is serving Amane (but his feelings for her are more than those of a servant for a master!). Usually he looks like an ordinary teenager, but when the situation calls for it, Hyoue can transform into a fiery demon-dog. By pressing lips with Amane he can feed on her life force—her kiss literally brings out the demon in him!



TAKAKO NISHINA

Amane's first and best friend. Amane once saved Takako's life, but afterward blocked her friend's memories using kotodama. Level-headed Takako helps to keep the socially inept Amane out of trouble.



HAYATO HIRAKA

Amane's cousin and fellow user of "Mama," he's currently teaching Classical Japanese at Amane's school. Hiraka came to Tokyo at the behest of the village elders in order to watch over Amane. His koma-oni, Tachibane, takes the form of a shadowy demon bird.



DOGFIGHT-20





ARE YOU...

Nurses Office

ARE YOU
SURE
YOU'RE
OKAY?



AMANE-
CHAN?

KAMORI
?



BUT...

YES.

I'M JUST
A LITTLE
ANEWIC,
THAT'S
ALL.



SINCE THE SE-
MESTER'S
STARTED,
HE'S ALREADY
BEEN ABSENT
FOR THREE
DAYS.

LIKE
HYOUE-
KUN.

I KNOW
YOU SAID
HE HAD
A COLD,
BUT
STILL...



AWAKE-
CHAN,
THINGS
HAVEN'T
SEEMED
RIGHT
LATELY.



IT ISN'T
NORMAL
AT ALL.

HAVING
HYOUE-KUN
NOT BE
BY YOUR
SIDE LIKE
THIS...



HYOUE-
KUN?

SWISH

I
SWEAR
IF YOU
WERE RIGHT
THEN,
THEN YOU
SHOULDN'T
SAY--



I'M NOT
AWAY FROM
HER SIDE.

HUH
?





I CAN'T
DO ANYTHING
ABOUT MY
APPEARANCE,
SO I TRIED
HIDING VIA
POSSESSION.

BUT IT
SEEMS THAT
WAS ASK-
ING FOR TOO
MUCH.

THERE
ARE TWO
WAYS A
KOMA-ONI
CAN PRO-
TECT HIS
MASTER.



EXHAU-
STED
IT



I'M
JUST
NOT
USED TO
IT, THAT'S
WHY I
GOT SO
EXHAUSTED.

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.

BUT TO
DO THIS RE-
QUIRES THAT
THE KOMA-ONI
OCCASIONALLY
FEED ON LIFE
FORCE ENERGY
TO SURVIVE.



ATTACK

THE
FIRST
WAY
IS TO HIDE
HIMSELF BY
EITHER TAKING
THE FORM OF
A HUMAN OR
BECOMING
INVISIBLE...

...SO
THAT
HE CAN
ALWAYS
REMAIN
BY HIS
MASTER'S
SIDE.

THE
KOMA-ONI POS-
SESSES HIS
MASTER AND ONLY
COMES OUT WHEN
SUMMONED.

THEN
THERE'S
THE OTHER
WAY.





OWAAAAHH!!!

Si...

SIGN
IF?

OH, SILLY, ♡
I CAME HERE
TO PICK UP
OUR LITTLE
PRINCESS!



WHY ARE
YOU AT
OUR
SCHOOL
IF?

I CALLED
HER
HERE.

PICK
UP?!





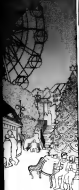
CAN
YOU
REALLY
EXPECT...



I
GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT.



...
TO CALL
COUSIN
HAYATO
INSTEAD?





EITHER YOU
RETURN TO THE
VILLAGE

OR...

NOW
THAT THE
KIDONA'S
BEEN
MOVED

...THERE
IS
ABSOLUTELY
NO WAY YOU
CAN REMAIN
HERE IN
TOKYO.

...GET
A NEW
KOMA-
ONI.



I...I
KNOW!
IF WE
CAN GET
GRANNY

I MEAN,
THE ELDER
TO CAST
A NEW
"KINSON"
ON ME...

...AND
I CANNOT
ALLOW YOU
TO REMAIN
OUTSIDE
THE VILLAGE
UNGUARDED.

HE
CAN'T
GUARD
YOU
WHILE IN
HIS TRUE
DRAGON
FORM...

BUT
COUNIN

BUT
...

THERE'S
NOTHING
ELSE
YOU
CAN
DO.

FOOL!!

...THEN WE
CAN KEEP
LIVING THE
WAY—

YOU STILL
DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT IT
REALLY
MEANT...

...FOR
THE
ELDER
TO CAST
A KINSON
ON YOU IN
THE FIRST
PLACE, DO
YOU?

IT
ISN'T
JUST
SOME
SPELL FOR
SEALING
YOUR
POWER.

IT ALSO
SERVED AS
A TEST OF
YOUR MERIT
AS A KOMA-
ONE.

!!



IN OTHER
WORDS,
POURCE AN
INSTANT
MOMENT
FOR
A MAJOR

WHEN
YOU VIOLATED
THE PRO-
HIBITION
SET BY THE
ELDER

...YOU
COMMITTED
THE OLDEST
MURDER
POSSIBLE FOR
A SONA-ONE

AT THAT
MOMENT,
YOU FAILED
AS A SER-
VANT.

I
WANT TO
BECOME
HUMAN.





THAT'S
ENOUGH,
COUSIN!

BLACK



...WAS
BECAUSE
I WAS
STILL A
CHILD
REMEMBER?

THE
REA-
SON THE
ELDER
SEALED
HIM...

MY BODY
COULDN'T
HANDLE ALL
OF HYUUE'S
POWER.



GIVE
US A
LITTLE
TIME.

WE'LL
FIGURE
SOME-
THING
OUT.

NOW I
SHOULD
BE ABLE TO
KEEP HYUUE
IN CHECK
WITH MY OWN
POWER.

BUT
THINGS
HAVE
CHANGED
SINCE
THEN.



AWAKE

WE'LL
SHOW YOU
WE CAN
HANDLE IT!





UH, I CAN'T
HELP THINKING
WE'RE GOING AT
A SPEED THAT
WOULD BE CON-
SIDERED RATHER
DANGEROUS...



SION-CHAN
HERE'S A
VERY GOOD
DRIVER.

DON'T
YOU
WORRY
YOUR
LITTLE
HEAD
ABOUT IT.
☆

WHEE!
☆

アヘー!!



MY
UNCLE'S
A VERY
BUSY
MAN.

EVEN
THOUGH
I'VE
COME
OVER TO
HANG OUT
SO MANY
TIMES.

I'VE
NEVER
MET YOUR
UNCLE
BEFORE.

TH..
THAT
RE-
MINDS
ME.

さゆり





I'M SO
DISAP-
POINTED
IN
MYSELF
...

I CAN'T
EVEN FULLY
SUSTAIN ONE
KOMA-ONI ON
MY OWN.

IT JUST
SHOWS HOW I
REALLY HAVEN'T
GROWN AS
MUCH AS I'D
THOUGHT I
HAD.



AWAKE-
CHAN...



THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT.

IS THERE ANY WAY I CAN CONTACT MY UNCLE NOW?

SIGH...



PRINCESS...

YES?



HAHAH!!
THE STEERING WHEEL! KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE STEERING WHEEL!!

I'LL DO IT LATER! LATER!!

OKE-DOKIE!
JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE.
☆



WHAT
DO I DO?



IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT.



WHAT
DO I
DO?

I
MADE
HER GO
ON THAT
DATE...





WHAT IS

CUT
OFF THAT
BRANCH
FOR ME,
WOULD
YOU?

I
HAVE
A GOOD
IDEA,
HYO-
CHAN!
☆

MISTLE-
TOE...

IT
FEEDS
OFF ITS
HOST,
ABSORB-
ING ITS
NUTRI-
ENTS.

AND
BEFORE
LONG IT CAN
COMPLETELY
DEHAUST
THE HOST'S
NUTRIENTS,
KILLING IT.

IF WE LEAVE
IT THERE, IT'LL
KEEP TAKING
THE TREE'S
NUTRIENTS
UNTIL THE
CHERRY TREE
DIES.

YEAH
BUT...





COME
OOON,
I WAS
JUST
JOK-
ING...

ARE
YOU
SERIOUS
!?!



...WANT
AN AFRO,
DON'T
YOU!



HA HA HA HA

WE DO IT
SO THAT
WE CAN
SERVE OUR
MASTERS.

...WE DON'T
SIMPLY TAKE
LIFE FORCE
FOR THE FUN
OF IT.

YOU
KNOW,
HIO-
CHAN...





IT'S
MORE
LIKE
"SYMPT-
OTIC."

SO I
WOULDN'T
CALL IT
"PARASITIC."



I
GUESS
SO...

SYMPT-
OTIC...



BUT
LISTEN.
☆

THERE
ARE STILL
PLENTY OF
WAYS TO BE
OF USE...



RUN?



BUT I HAVE
TO SAY THAT
STUFFING YOUR
SELF LIKE YOU
DO IS JUST PLAIN
GLUTTONY!
IT'S ONE LEVEL
BELOW BEING A
PARASITE!
☆



BUT
UNCLE....

YES, I
UNDER-
STAND.

I
SEE.



...TO
BE SO
SPEEDY
WITH
HER...

I
DIDN'T
HEAR...

I CAN'T
DENY IT
THOUGH
...

I CAN
ACTUALLY
FEEL IT
BECOMING
DIFFICULT
TO KEEP IN
CHECK.

...I'VE HAD
FAR MORE
ENERGY THAN
I REALLY
NEED.

SINCE
THE
DAY THE
KINGDOM
WAS
LIFTED...

BUT...

D
R
O
O
P



GLARE



WHOOSH

FLAP

WHAT THE
HELL DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
DOING,
TSUBUTE
!!



TWITCH

I'M IN A
VERY BAD
MOOD
RIGHT
NOW.

IF
YOU'RE
LOOK-
ING FOR
A FIGHT,
DON'T
CHOOSE
TODAY.

DON'T
WORRY,
I DON'T
WANT TO
FIGHT.

I ONLY CAME
TO LET YOU
KNOW HOW
INADGULATE
YOU ARE.



KOM-ON
WHO ONLY
HAS THEIR
SHED HAIR
GONE FOR
THEM...

...ALWAYS
TURN OUT TO
BE SO HARD
TO MANAGE.

CLAK











COUSIN
HAYATO

STOP
PROVOKING
HYOUE LIKE
THIS.

ESPEC-
IALLY
NOW...



The little
doll on
Hyōue's
arm. The
doll
is
alive.

THERE'S
NO TWO
WAYS WITH
YOU, IS
THERE?









HUH/?

IT
FELT AS
THOUGH...

WHAT
WAS THAT
JUST NOW?

WH...



WH...



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
AHANE
...P



SHOWER

AS, THOUGH
MY LIFE
WAS BEING
CONSUMED!

WHY'RE
YOU LOOK-
ING AT ME
WITH THOSE
SCARED
EYES?

WHY'RE YOU
MAKING THAT
FACE?





RETURN
TO THE
VILLAGE.





WHAT AM I BLABBERING ABOUT?



BUT...I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.



...IS
THAT
I'VE
BEEN
CAST
ASIDE.



ALL I
KNOW...

I'M
SORRY.



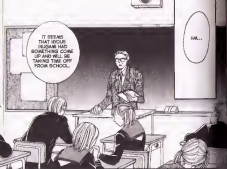
THE DOGFIGHT
WAS A BATTLE
BETWEEN TWO
MEN...

THE DOGFIGHT
WAS A BATTLE
BETWEEN TWO
MEN...

THE DOGFIGHT
WAS A BATTLE
BETWEEN TWO
MEN...



DOGFIGHT 21



YOU SENT
HIM BACK
TO THE
VILLAGE
?

COULD IT
REALLY HAVE
TAKEN A TURN
FOR THE WORSE?

E...
BUT...

THAT'S
RIGHT.

WHAT'LL
YOU DO
NOW?

I HAD MY
COUSIN
HARUTO TAKE
HIM BACK
THE OTHER
DAY.

NO NEED
TO WORRY.
♡





THE TRUTH IS, I WAS HOPING I'D GET A CHANCE TO BE A STUDENT!

We don't need the a student - don't worry!

UH... STOP, I GOT IT ALREADY.



I'LL BE HER SECRET GUARDIAN NOW, SO SHE'LL BE FINE! ♡

SH... SIGH... SIGH...

...THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT I'LL BE KEEPING MY UNCLE'S KORM-OAL.

BUT...



I TOO AM GOING TO THE VILLAGE TOMORROW.



SHE'S GOING BACK TO THE VILLAGE FOR GOOD!

BUT... YOU DON'T REAL...

HE
KOMA-ONE...

ONCE THE
FESTIVAL
ENDS, I'LL
COME
BACK.

KOMA...

DON'T
WORRY.
I'LL JUST
BE VISIT-
ING.

FEST-
IVAL?

GASP

...USUALLY
LIVE SEALED
WITHIN THE
CONFESSIONS OF A
SACRED TREE...

...ATOP THE
PEAK OF A
MOUNTAIN

DAY-
ING...

IT'S
ALMOST
LIKE A
DRINKING
PARTY!
♡

IT'S
CALLED
THE
DRINK
MOUNT
FESTIVAL

IT'S
THE
SPECIAL
PARTY
DURING
THE
FESTIVAL

IT
TAKES
PLACE
ONCE
A YEAR
IN THE
VILLAGE.

AND ON THAT NIGHT, THE VILLAGE REMAINS SAFE BEHIND A BARRIER AGAIN.

THAT IS THE ONLY NIGHT WE PUT OUR BARRIERS ASIDE...

...AND FORGET ALL ABOUT OUR USUAL GOALS OF ATTACKING THE VILLAGE OR EATING HUMANS.

EXCEPT FOR THE ONE-TRUNK -- THE "DEMON MASTERS."

DIAGRAM

ON ONE EVENING EACH YEAR WE ARE SET FREE.

THOUGH ONLY TO GO AS FAR AS THE VILLAGE.

JUST AS THE ONE-TRUNK HAD A SERVANT ...
...WE WOULD ONE NEED A MASTER IN RETURN.



ONLY WHEN A HUMAN HAS WON THE FIGHT AGAINST US...

DO WE TELL OUR OWN "MAAS."

SO WE SEARCH OUT A SUITABLE PARTNER...

...FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER TO TEST ANY POTENTIAL PARTNER'S SKILLS.





OUR
TRUE
NAME.

MAMA
...?

...ARE
FOR CON-
VENIENCE.
THOSE
AREN'T
OUR REAL
NAMES.

LIKE
"GION"
AND
"HYDRE"...

THE
NAMES
WE ARE
USUALLY
CALLED
BY...



FOR THAT
REASON THEY
ARE ONLY RE-
VEALED TO THE
MASTER WE
CHOOSE.

THEY
SERVE AS
PROOF OF
THE FACT.

OUR
"TRUE"
...

...ARE THE
FOUNDATION
OF OUR VERY
BEING.



AMONG-
STH ONLY
TEMPOR-
RARLY...

...CALLED
OFF HIS
PACT WITH
HYOU-
KUN.

...AND
SHE'LL
RENEW
THE PACT
AT THE
FESTIVAL!



UH...
THEN SO...
YOU
MEAN

I
GET
IT!



THAT IS
IMPOSS-
IBLE.

NO.



EVEN IF
I WERE
TO RENEW
OUR PACT,
IT WOULDN'T
CHANGE
ANYTHING.

I JUST
CAN'T
HANDLE
HYOU
NOW...



WHAT
IF



THERE
ARE
SOME
THINGS
IN THIS
WORLD...

I WANT
TO RE-
-COME
HUMAN.

...THAT ARE
SIMPLY NOT
MEANT TO BE.



YOU'RE THEN
...
YOU'RE JUST
GOING TO BREAK
OFF ALL CON-
-NECTION TO
HIM?



I
THOUGHT
HE WAS
YOUR
BEST
FRIEND?

HOW
CAN
YOU DO
THAT?



ATEKO
...



WH...
WHY?



THIS ISN'T
LIKE YOU
TO JUST
GIVE UP!



POOR
MYOUE-KUN!
HOW DO YOU
THINK HE
FEELS?!

DON'T
CONDEMN
HER.



CREAK
SLAM





THERE IS
NO
DOUBT SHE
REACHED
THIS DECISION
AFTER
BLACK AGONYING.

...HER PAINFUL
PAST...

...THE
PRINCESS
CAN'T HELP
REMEMBER-
ING...

WHENEVER
THE DEMON
HUNTING
FESTIVAL
COMES
AROUND...



WOO-HOO!!
CONGRATULATIONS
ON GETTING KICKED
OUT!!



YOU
KNOW
?

WE
FOULDED
YOURSE
DOWN IN THE
DUNGEON SO WE
THOUGHT WE'D
TRY CHEER-
ING YOU
UP.

WHAT?

THAT
GO
...?

For your convenience,
Mokkusu and I are
being chosen as Star
Team Seven.



LET'S GO OUT!

HEY!
LOOK
RIGHT!

GOING TO TRYING

WHAT ARE
YOU GUYS
TRYING TO
PULL?



...CONGRATS
ON GETTING
FIRED?

WOULD
YOU HAVE
PREFERRED
IT IF WE
WROTE...

WELL,
I'D PRE-
FER IT IF YOU
DIDN'T
BUR SALT IN
THE WOUND.
IF YOU KNOW
WHAT I
MEAN?

E...I TOLD
THEM IT
WASN'T A
GOOD IDEA...

YOU
JACK
NOBUN-
CHU?

SALT



YOU JUST
GOT HOME
AND ALREADY
YOU'RE
CAUSING
TROUBLE?

YUZURU



IT'S A SHAME,
WHAT HAPPENED.

DON'T LET IT
GET YOU
DOWN.



DA-
DEED!

I CAN HARDLY
BELIEVE THAT
A GUY ON
LIKE YOU, WHO
IS PROBABLY
VERY OLD,
WAS IT COMES
TO ABSORBING
LIFE FORCE.

HADN'T
ALREADY
BEEN
ENJOYING
A LONG TIME
AGO...

HE'S
RIGHT, WE
CONSIDER
IT A MIRACLE
YOU EVEN
LASTED
THOSE 8
YEARS!



EVEN THE
HERB TO
THE CLAN
COULDN'T
HANDLE YOUR
GLUTTONOUS
APPETITE,
HYOU.



THE
YOUNG HEN
IS SAID
TO BE
ATTENDING

FES-
TIVAL...
YOU
MEAN THE
DEMON
HUNT?

OH, HENRY! THE
NEXT FULL
MOON IS THE
FESTIVAL.

YOU'LL
FIND A NEW
WASTER IN
NO TIME!

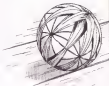


IT'S ALREADY
GIVEN...

AMANE

...TOO...

THAT'S
RIGHT





IT'S BEEN A
YEAR!
HELLOOOO
WORLD!

ALL
RIGHT!

...EIGHT
YEARS
SINCE
THAT
DAY...





GOOD LUCK,
EVERYONE!
I EXPECT
YOU ALL TO FIND MAG-
TRESS!



THE
FESTIVAL HAS
BEGUN!

HAPPY
HUNTING!



YOU
DON'T
FEEL UP
TO PAR-
TICIPATING
THIS YEAR
AGAIN?

HOO-
UE...





SHUT
UP!



TH...
THAT'S
RIGHT!
BUT
HE
COULD
WOUND
THEN
YOU
HAVE
TO--

ONE OF
THOSE YEARS
SOMEONE WILL
SHOW UP WHO
COULD BE
CALLED
THE SECOND
COMMANDER
OF KAKO.



DON'T
WASTE
YOUR TIME
WORRYING
ABOUT
ME.
MY
WILL
BE
OVER
SOON.

YOUR NEXT
MASTER
WILL APPEAR
BEFORE YOU
SOON.

UNDER-
STAND
THIS,
KID.



I'M SURE THAT
YOU WILL FIND A
KIND MASTER WHO
WILL LOVE YOU VERY
MUCH SO JUST WAIT
PATIENTLY AND
BELIEVE.

THAT'S
WHAT
HE SAID.



ON THE
VERGE
OF DEATH
HE HAD
THOSE
WORDS
FOR ME--

...WAS AN
ELDER OF
THE KAKO
FAMILY LINE.

MY FIRST
MASTER.

EVEN IF I
DON'T HAVE A
MASTER...

...THE LIFE
FORCE I
NEED ALWAYS
FLOWS FROM
THE SACRED
TREE.

I
STOPPED
BELIEVING.

AND THEN
100 YEARS
LATER...

FOR THE
FIRST 100
YEARS I HAD
NO DESIRE TO
SERVE ANYONE
ELSE.

AND
SO I
CONTINUED
TO BELIEVE
AND WAIT FOR
THE NEXT
100 YEARS.

THE
100 YEARS
FOLLOW-
ING THAT
I ACTUALLY
SEARCHED
A MASTER
OUT.

THEN
FOR
ANOTHER
100 YEARS,
I WENT ON
A WILD
GALLOPE.





MY BODY
EXISTENCE
IS FADING
INTO THE
SHADOWS.

WITH NO
LIGHT TO
ELIMINATE
MY PATH...

PERHAPS I
BELONG
IN THAT
TREE...

...EVEN MY
CONTOURS
ARE
BLURRED.

...A PLACE
THAT NEVER
SEES THE
LIGHT OF DAY.

I FEEL
AS IF I'M
ABOUT TO
DISAPPEAR.

ZSSH

SNAP

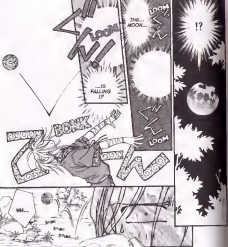
I
CURSE
I'M JUST
A POOR
LONER.

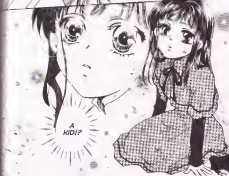
...HERE
I AM,
WAITING TO
WATCH THE
SUN RISE IN
THE HOPES
OF BRING IT
ONE MORE
DAY.

AND
IN SPITE
OF ALL
THAT...

I'M HOPING
TO SEE THE
THINEST BIT OF
LIGHT BEFORE
THE SUN FULLY
RISES AND I'M
LOCKED AWAY
EVERYWHERE
I CAN.

THE
ONLY TIME
WE CAN BE
OUT FROM
THE NEST
IS DURING
THE NIGHT HOURS.







HOW'D
A HUMAN
KID GET
OUT HERE?



HEY,
KID!



WHAT'RE
YOU DOING
HERE?!

I'M
TALKING
TO YOU, SQUIRT!



COULD IT BE
THAT SHE CAME
HERE FOR THE
HUNT?!



SAY
SOME-
THING,
YOU
BRAT!





YOU'RE
NOT
LOST,
ARE
YOU?

ONE
COULDN'T
BE...



WHAT'RE
YOU DOING
WANDERING
AROUND
OUT
HERE,?

DIDN'T THE
PEOPLE AT
THE VILLAGE
TELL YOU
TODAY IS
THE MOST
DANGEROUS
NIGHT OF
THE YEAR?

.....



TO
PARTICIPATE
IN THE
HUNT...

...HUNTERS
HAVE TO
BE AT
LEAST 14.

But
she's
only
13...



COME
ON! WHEN
SOMEONE
ASKS YOU A
QUESTION,
ANSWER!



ARE YOU
IGNORING
ME?

TUF TUF TUF TUF



...YOU
CAN'T
TALK?!

DON'T
TELL
ME...



WHY
YOU
LITTLE
--!!

TUP TUP TUP TUP



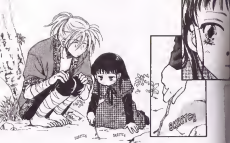


IT'S ALL BECAUSE
YOU'RE CARRYING THAT
BALL OF YOURS.

YOU'RE
EVEN
SLOWER
THAN I
THOUGHT.

GRAB







What's
the escaped
tree?



THE
SA-
CRED
TREE?

YOU'RE
FATHER'S
THREE?

ONE
OF
THREE
HEADS
SOMEONE
WILL SHOW UP
WHO COULD
BE CALLED
THE SECOND
COMING OF
PARADISE

WAT
JUST A
SECOND...

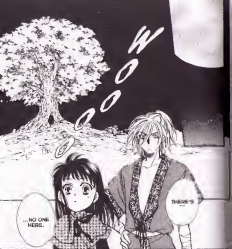
HIS DAD
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY BE
A HUMAN-
ON...

AND NO
ORDINARY
HUMAN
WOULD
DARE
INTRUDE
ON THE
DEVIL'S
HORN.

IT
COULDN'T
BE...



THIS KID'S
FATHER
MUST BE
SOME
POWERFUL
FIGURE!







I DON'T CARE
ABOUT THE
"WASTERS" -
I CAME OUT
TONIGHT TO
FEED.

TONIGHT IS
THE ONE TIME
OF THE YEAR
THAT WE CAN BE
PERMITTED TO
EAT HUMANS
OPENLY.

IT IS OUR
FESTIVAL.



I DON'T CARE
IF SHE'S AN
ONI-TSUKA
OR A REGULAR
VILLAGER...

BUT
SHE'S NOT A
PARTICIPANT
IN THE FESTIVAL!



...IS
SUBJECT
TO BEING
EATEN,
WITHOUT
DIS-
COURSE.

IT IS
ORDAINED
THAT ANY
MORTAL WHO
SETS FOOT
OUTSIDE THE
BARRICA...



ONI-
TSUKA



THIS
LITTLE
GIRL?

WHAT?

NO...

I
HADN'T
THE
SLIGHTEST
SUSPICION...

SHE IS...

THE
GRANDCHILD
OF THE CUR-
RENT HEAD OF
THE KIMORI
FAMILY - THE
HEIR TO THE
CLAN...

...AND
SUCCESS-
SOR OF THE
POWER OF
KOTOHANA.



...SHE
WOULD
HAVE
BEEN THE
HEIR.

I'M
SORRY.
WHAT I
SHOULD
HAVE SAID
IS THAT...

EVER
SINCE HER
FATHER
DIED...

...SHE HAS
BEEN UNABLE
TO SPEAK, AND
THEREFORE UN-
ABLE TO USE
KOTOHANA.

NOW
THERE IS NO
LINEAGE TO
SUCCEED.

ALMOST

SHE'LL
CERTAINLY
MAKE FOR
A HEARTY
MEAL.

EVEN
SO, HER
POTENTIAL
POWER
SHOULD BE
VERY HIGH.

HER
FATHER'S
DEATH?

THEN
WHY...?



WHAT'S THIS
ALL ABOUT?
YOUR FATHER'S
DEAD?

YEP.



!?



I CAN MEET
WITH PEOPLE
EVERYWHERE.



...SHE
BELIEVES
THAT IF SHE
GOES TO
THE TREE,
SHE CAN SEE
THOSE WHO
HAVE DIED?

SINCE ON THE
DAY OF THE
FESTIVAL, THE
GATES TO
THE UNDER-
WORLD ARE
OPENED...

THE
UNDER-
WORLD?

THIS IS
NO TIME TO
BE WRITING
MESSAGES IN
THE SAND!





COULD SHE
HEAR THE
SEAL ON THE
SACRED
TREES?



NO... I'VE
NEVER
HEARD OF
SUCH A
THING.



DO
YOU
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
THIS, ALTY-
SUNA?



BUT IT IS
CONNECTED
TO THE WORLD
OF US KONA-
ONI. THERE
ARE NO DEAD
PEOPLE
THERE.

TONIGHT
IS THE ONLY
NIGHT IT'S
OPEN.

OH
YEAH!



When I can't see
my daddy?





THERE'S
JUST NO WAY.

ONE CAN
NEVER
MEET THOSE
WHO HAVE
ALREADY
PASSED
AWAY.



HUH
...?

HEY!

TUP

TUP

HE'S RIGHT!
IF THESE WERE,
I'D HAVE CALLED
OUT MY OLD MAN
LONG AGO AND
GIVEN HIM A
BEATING!

RISE

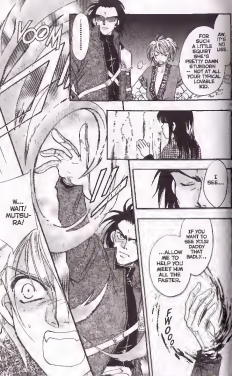
TUP

TUP

TUP

I TOLD
YOU, YOU
CAN'T SEE
YOUR FA-
THER...

LITTLE
GIRL!



Voom

REMEMBER...

FOR SUCH A LITTLE SQUIRT SHE'S PRETTY DAMN STUBBORN - NOT AT ALL YOUR TYPICAL LOVABLE RED.

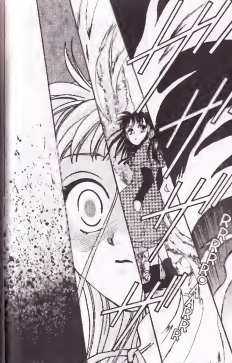
AW, IT'S NO LIE.

Wait!
MITSU-
RA!

I SEE...

IF YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR DADDY THAT BADLY...
...ALLOW ME TO HELP YOU MEET HIM ALL THE FASTER.

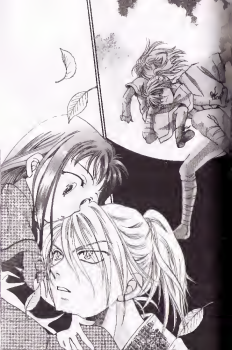
FWOOO





DADDY??







WELL, I
CAN'T
JUST
ABANDON
HER!



THESE IS
NO POINT
TRYING TO
PROTECT A
LITTLE GIRL
LIKE HER.



AFTER
500
YEARS OF
HANGING
AROUND
THIS
STUPID
TREE...

...I'VE
FED
UP WITH
YOUR DAMN
LONE WOLF
ATTITUDE
MITSURU!



WHAT'S THE POINT?

IT
WON'T
STOP
RINGING IN
MY HEAD!



THE
NO-
BOMB
SQUAD
LET
OUT THAT
VOICE...

... HER MORE
POWER
FROM TO IN-
COMPARABLE
LEADERS.

A
A
A

A

A





**SHE'S
SCREAMING
PURE FEELING
INTO HER KOTO-
DAMA, SO MUCH
THAT IT HURTS!**



HYOLE-
IP

AND ALSO...



—

I SEE
NOW...!



MY
BACK...
IT FEELS
LIKE IT'S
GOING TO
BE TORN
APART!



HYOLE...

HYOLE...

SADNESS...

REGRETMENT...



WE'RE
PUTTING
OUR-
SELVES IN
DANGER!

WE
MUST
GET OUT
OF HERE,
HYOLE!

...A CRUSHING
LONELINESS.





YOU WERE
HOLDING IT
IN ALL THIS
TIME.



IT
MUST'VE
BEEN VERY
HARD ON
YOU.

TRYING
HERSELF
WITH ALL
HER MIGHT...

...TO
HOLD
OUT
AGAINST
THE SUFFERING.



IT'S NOT
THAT SHE
WASN'T
CUTE.

IT'S
JUST
THAT SHE
HIS SO
FULL OF
PAIN.



L...

...YOU
WERE JUST
ENDURING IT.



...THAT
MY FA-
THER

FOR ALL
THAT TIME...

...HAD
TO
DIE...



THAT
IS...

...A PAIN
I KNOW
ALL TOO
WELL.

I
HATED...

...BEING
LEFT
ALONE!



THEY
SHOULD
BE ABLE TO
BRING YOU
BACK TO THE
VILLAGE.

LOOK!

THERE
ARE
PEOPLE
DOWN
THERE.



WEP
I CAN'T
GO.

AND
YOU
TOO,
HONEY?



ONCE THE
NIGHT IS
THROUGH, WE
KOMA-ONE ARE
FORCED TO
GO BACK



THE
FESTIVAL'S
OVER.

WOOOSH

WOOOSH

SEE,
LOOK
THERE.

YOU'LL
JUST
HAVE TO
WAIT 'TIL
NEXT
YEAR.

WELL,
IT'S
TOO
LATE
TO DO
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT
NOW.

SAME...
IT WAS THE
ONLY THING
I WAS
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO!

WAIT...
AAAAH!!

DAMNITY
THAT MEANS I
MISSED THE
RISING SUN!





COULD
SHE HAVE
HEARD IT
SAID TO
BECOME
AN
ARTIST?

BUT
THAT
MAYBE
POSSIBLE
SHE
HEARD
OF
EARLIER



NO... THERE'S
NO WAY A SPIRIT
LIKE THAT COULD
SPOT AGAINST
ME.



gagag

WELL, AT
THIS RATE,
I'LL NEVER
GET TO THE
ENJOY THE
SUN AGAIN.

YANK





YOU SAID YOU
WANT THE SUN,
RIGHT?





IT WAS A SMALL
SUN WOVEN WITH
GOLD THREAD.



BUT AT THAT
MOMENT...



YOU
GOT ME
THERE...



HA
HA...



...IT SHONE
EVEN MORE
BRILLIANTLY
THAN THE REAL
THING...



...AND FILLED
ME WITH AN
UNMEASURABLE
LIGHT.



SOME-
THING VERY
MEANINGFUL
THAT MY
PARENTS
MASTERS
GAVE ME.



AL-
RIGHTY
THEN!

I'M GOING
TO GIVE YOU
SOMETHING
PRECIOUS IN
RETURN.



DON'T
TELL ME
YOU'RE--



IT'S
NOT CON-
SIDERED
PROPER FOR
AN ONE TO
SHARE HIS
TRUE NAME
WITHOUT A
FIGHT...
...BUT
SINCE I
DECIDED
TO DO IT
MYSELF,
WHO CARES A
DAMN WHAT
ANYONE
THINKS.



THAT IS MY
"MAMA."





OKAY



RE-
MEMBER
IT WELL.

AND WHEN
YOU'RE OLD
ENOUGH TO
PARTICIPATE IN
THE FESTIVAL,
YOU'D BETTER
COME AFTER
ME!



GLON

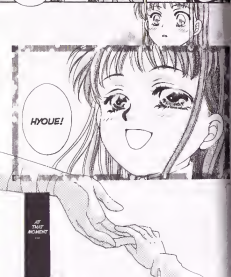


TIME'S
UP.

LET'S
GO.









...BUT
NOW

...I
WAS
SURE
I HAD
TAKEN
HOLD OF A
BRILLIANT
LIGHT.

THE LIGHT
OF MY LIFE
IS GONE.

DOG FIGHT 22





ALL I
REMEMBER IS
THE RED MOON.



LIKE BLOOD
THAT WON'T
STOP FLOW-
ING.

ONE STILL,
RUSTED
STEEL.

THE RED,
RED MOON...

THAT IS
THE HOME
OF THE
KUMORI
CLAN.

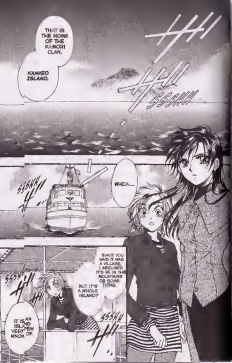
KAWGO
ISLAND.

WELL...

BUT IT'S
A WHOLE
ISLAND?

SINCE YOU
SAID IT WAS
A VILLAGE,
I ASSUMED
IT'D BE IN THE
MOUNTAINS
OR SOME
THING.

IT IS AN
ISLAND
VERY
FAR
FROM
HERE.





ONLY OLD
TRADITIONS
AND OLD
SPIRITS DWELL
THERE.

THERE
ARE NO
TRAFFIC
LIGHTS AND
SO FEW CARS
YOU CAN
COUNT THEM
ON ONE
HAND.



THAT IS
THE MIND
OF ISLAND
IT IS.



YOU'RE
LOOKING
AS WELL
AS EVER.

YOU'VE
COME AT
LAST,
AMANE.



URL...
COUSIN
SAKATO

I HAVE TO
SHOW YOU
SOMETHING



WHAT
THE
...?!



I AP-
PROXIMATE
YOU COMING
TO GREET ME
IN SPITE OF
YOUR BUSY
SCHEDULE
FORWARDING
THE FESTI-
VAL.

YOU
TOO,
UNCLE.



I CAME HERE OF MY OWN FREE WILL!

IF FRIENDS DON'T STICK WITH EACH OTHER, WHAT GOOD ARE THEY?



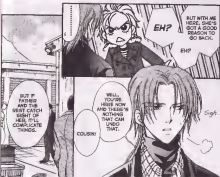
I WAS WORRIED THAT...

...IF AMANE-CHAN WENT UP HERSELF...

...SHE'D HAVE COME BACK TO TOKYO.



WHAT'S NISHINA DOING HERE?



EH?

BUT WITH ME HERE, SHE'S GOT A GOOD REASON TO GO BACK.

EH?

BUT IF NISHINA AND THE BUNT CATCH SIGHT OF HER, IT'LL COMPLICATE THINGS.

COUSIN!

WELL, YOU'RE HERE NOW AND THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN UNDO THAT.

Sigh...



HOW CAN HE EXPECT ME TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THAT BOSSING-GAME PLAY?

BAH...

SO UNTIL THE FESTIVAL IS OVER, I'LL HIDE YOU IN MY HOUSE WHERE YOU'LL STAY PUT. GOT IT?

OF COURSE! ♪



THE ONLY REASON I CAME HERE WAS TO PERSUADE ANANE-CHAN!



BY THE TIME TOMORROW'S DEMON-HUNT FESTIVAL IS OVER, I HAVE TO CHANGE ANANE-CHAN'S MIND!

FIGHT THEM'S FIRST!

...BUT THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME WAY

ANANE-CHAN ...

...SAYS SHE CAN'T HANDLE HOUSE-MAKING...

...WHAT IS
WITH THIS
LABYRINTH
IF?

A REAL

DUNGEON

I
FIGURED
THAT THERE'D
BE NO WAY I'D
GET LOST IN
SUCH A TINY
VILLAGE,
BUT...

Some
people
don't
are so
impressed
but
there are no
exceptions.

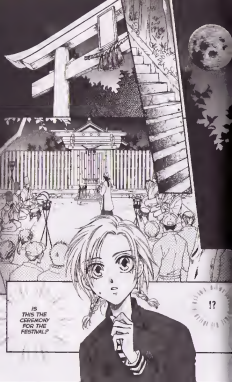
CHATTER

HIDE

!

ALL
RIGHT!

THEY'RE
ALL
GOING IN
THE SAME
DIREC-
TION.



IS
THIS THE
CEREMONY
FOR THE
FESTIVAL?





CLANG







DATED



IT WAS A
DANCE TO
REMEMBER.

SHE
SAID
IT WAS
A
DANCE
TO
REMEMBER.

NOW

UNTIL NOW
SHE'S
ALWAYS
REFUSED.

SHE ALWAYS
SAID IT WAS
BECAUSE SHE
ALREADY HAD
A MORA-CHI
SHE WAS
HAPPY WITH
BUT...

YOU
DON'T
THINK
THE REAL
REASON
COULD BE
THAT
INCIDENT
DO YOU?

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER
FATHER, I
MEAN...



I WAS AFRAID
THAT WHEN
SHE RAN OFF
TO THE CITY,
SHE WOULD
BE COR-
RUPTED BY
THE OUTSIDE
WORLD.

I'M RE-
LIEVED TO
SEE THAT
MY WOR-
RIES WERE
UNFOUNDED
AND THAT SHE
CAME BACK
FOR THE
FESTIVAL.





...I DON'T REMEMBER
MUCH ABOUT
MY FATHER'S
DEATH.

BUT
THE
TRUTH
IS...

SSSHH

I FIRST
HEARD
ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED TO
ARAH-CHAN'S
FATHER...

...WHILE
HE WAS
ON THE BOAT.



ALL I REMEM-
BER IS THE
POINT UP UNTIL
I SAW HIM BE-
ING DRAGGED
INTO THE
HOUSE DRIP-
PING WITH
BLOOD.

AND
THEN
THE
RED
MOON.

ABOUT
NOW
SHE WENT
UP THE
MOUNTAIN
BECAUSE SHE
WANTED TO
SEE HER
FATHER
AGAIN...



...AND
ENDED UP
MEETING
ARAH-CHAN
THAT NAK

...I LOST
THE ABILITY
TO SPEAK.

AND
ROCK...

WHEN I
CAME TO,
FOR MONTHS
FOLLOWING
MY FATHER'S
DEATH...

OH,
NEVELL-
MIND.

AND
ROCK...

IT
NEVER
SHOULD
HAVE
HAPPENED.

...I
MUST'VE
BEEN
SPECIALLY
MADE
FOR
YOU.

TH...
THAT...

BECAUSE
IF YOU ARE
NOT CON-
FUSED...

...YOU
CAN'T
CHOOSE A
MORAL CODE TO
WHICH YOU
CAN ENTRUST
YOUR LIFE.

EVERYONE
IS ALWAYS
PREPARED
FOR THE DAN-
GERS THAT
COME ALONG
WITH THE
DARKEN
MANT.

SHE SAID
IT WAS THE
MOST
NATURAL
THING
IN THE
WORLD.



BUT NEW



BUT THEN SOL...

...THE BLADE
IT WAS AN
INCREDIBLY
BIG MOMENT
SINCE POST
HOLE.

DO YOU
THINK THE
COGS ARE
GOOD
FOR HEAT?

A MANAT-
SLING
WRAPPED
AROUND BY A
HINDA-CHE
IS AN AL
CINER.

IF THE
HEIR TURNS
OUT TO BE AS
HELPLESS AS
HELP PATRICK,
WE'LL BE IN A
WHOLE AREA
OF TROUBLE.



BIO-RECYCLED

BOB SAID THEY WERE LONGER WITH HIS AIRWAVE AND WERE ABOUT TO DEPART...



WHAT'S
THAT SUP-
POSED TO
MEAN?

I HOPE
THIS MEAN
THERE ARE
NO CASUAL-
TIES.

Plugged off

I

IT'S ONLY ON THIS DAY THAT I THANK GOD I'M JUST A REGULAR HUMAN.



I WILL NOT FOR-
GIVE SUCH
RUDENESS
TOWARD
HER.

APPEAR
SHE IS
MY GUEST.

AWAY-
CHAW

YEAH,
BUT...!

WHY
ARE YOU
HERE?

I TOLD
YOU TO
STAY
PUT!

STOMP

STOMP

WHAT...
RUDENESS
...?

REALLY?





...THE
KOMA-ON'S
BARK WOULD
CONCEAL
THIS ISLAND.

EACH
TIME
THE SEAL
ON THE
DRAGON'S
DEN IS
LIFTED...



17



LOOK.



COULD
HARDLY
I'VE LEARNED
HER
TO YOU.

UNTIL
DAYBREAK
TOMORROW,
DO NOT
STEP OUT
OF THE
BUILDING.

GOT
IT.



YOU
REALLY
DON'T
INTEND
TO MAKE
ANOTHER
PACT WITH
HYOU-
KUN, DO
YOU?



HAIR-
CUT



THE
MOON
...

IT'S
REDIP

IT WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE TO—

THIS ISN'T A MATTER OF WHAT'S "ADVISABLE!"

WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?

WILL YOU REALLY BE OKAY LEAVING THINGS LIKE THIS AMANE-CHAN?

LETTING ONESELF BE RULED BY EMOTIONS...

...IS NO WAY FOR A KOTO-SAMURAI TO ACT.





BUT I
WILL BE
MEETING
HIM.

THERE'S
SOME-
THING I
HAVE TO
TELL HIM.

THAT IS
WHY I CAME
HOME IN THE
FIRST PLACE.



AHAHA-
CHAH...





HOW
THEN

HAPPY
HUNTING
TO YOU
ALL FOR
ANOTHER
FINE
YEAR!



NOT LIKE
THERE'S
ANYONE WHO
COULD EVEN
FILL THE POSI-
TION OF MAS-
TER FOR ME
LIKE ARAVE
DID.



... IN THE
DEMON
WENT TO
SAVE YOU
BACK?

YOU DON'T
THINK THIS
ARAVE-DAMA
OF YOURS WILL
PARTICIPATE

HMP

Slippery
cucumber' one



YOU
WOULDN'T BE
GOING?

W
I
L
D



I'M JUST...
YOU KNOW...

BUT...

ALL I AM
IS A BLUDEN
TO AWARE.

I'M
ALWAYS
SAYING
THINGS I
SHOULDN'T.



WHAT
IF I
TOLD
YOU

MITSUGI
HAS HIS EYE
ON AWARE-
SAMAP



AND
HE HAS
NO CHANCE
TO TAKE
ON A WAR-
TER...

MITSUGI
WHAT
IF?

...IF YOU
CATCH MY
DRIFT.



...





HE'S
GOING TO
EAT
AWAKE!!

X
DASH



SHE'LL BE
FINE EVEN
IF I DON'T
GO AFTER
HER.



AWAKE
HAS THE
POWER OF
KOTODAMA.

THERE'S
NO WAY
SHE'D LET
HERSELF
GET
EATEN.

BUT
WAIT...



RUSTLE



RUSTLE



LEAP

19

SHE'LL BE
BETTER
OFF WITH-
OUT ME



I HAVE TO BE
CAREFUL AND
MAKE SURE
MY ENERGY
DENSITY GET
EXHAUSTED...

THERE
ARE MORE
LESSER
DEMONS
HERE THAN
I'D EXPECTED...

HE MUST
STILL BE
ANGRY WITH
ME...

ARE
YOU
TURNING
ON ME
NOW?







W... HAIT, HAIT-SURELY
I DON'T WANT
TO FIGHT YOU!



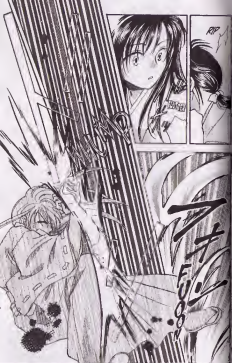
DON'T
WANT TO
FIGHT?



HUNTER OR
PREY ...
...YOU
HAVE TO
FIGHT!
THOSE
ARE THE
RULES.

IF
YOU ARE
NOT PRE-
PARED TO
FIGHT, YOU
DO NOT
BELONG
IN THE
HUNT!







STEP

WHY DON'T
YOU USE
KOTOOMAMA?

YOU DO
NOT THINK
I AM A
WORTHY
POPE?





THE
TRAMP

THE
TRAMP

OH
NO...

I
MUSTN'T
REMEM-
BER!!

THE
TRAMP

THE
TRAMP



I MUSTN'T
REMEMBER
WHAT HAP-
PENED!!









I DON'T
MEAN TO
INTERRUPT
YOUR MEAL,
BUT...



HYOLIE

Shit



...YOU'RE
MESSING
WITH THE
WRONG
GIRL!



I'LL HAVE
TO PUT AN
END TO THIS
SOFT SPOT
OF YOURS.



SMASH

JAY



EVEN SO,
YOU ARE
STILL OB-
TAINING TO
SERVE
HER?

THE
FACT
THAT SHE
CANNOT
STAND
AGAINST
ME...

...SHOWS
THAT SHE IS
INSUFFICIENT
TO BE YOUR
MASTER.



THE
FACT
BETWEEN
MASTER AND
SERVANT
FORMED
AFTER
THE FIGHT...

...IN
BETWEEN
PROVEN
EQUALS.



OH!
THAT'S
RIGHT!



HMM?



I'M
SORRY.



WHEN YOU
HEARD
THAT I HAD
ABANDONED
HYOU...

...YOU
FELT
ANGRY.

YOU
WANTED TO
MAKE SURE
I NEVER SAW
HIM AGAIN,
AM I COR-
RECT?



I'M THE
ONE WHO
UPSET HIM.



WE
WOULD
TALK
COME
TOO...?

BUT...
SURELY
THE ONE
WHO--



I'M THE
ONE WHO
UPSET HIM.



BUT...
SURELY
THE ONE
WHO--



MOORE HAS A
VERY GOOD
FRIEND ON
HIS SIDE.

MOORE

...I DIDN'T
COME ALL THE
WAY HERE ON
SOME MISAL

BUT...



MOORE
...

I NEED TO
HAVE A TALK
WITH YOU

"PLEASE GO
BY MOORE
ON AGAIN."

"DO ANYONE
EVER."

"THANKS
FOR EVERY
THING UNTIL
NOW"...?"

A...
TALK?



ARE YOU
FAMILIAR
WITH...
THE
CHERRY
TREE IN MY
UNCLE'S
GARDEN?



I THOUGHT
YOU'VE SEEN
THE MISTLETOE
GROWING ON
IT?

YEAH?



ACTUALLY,
THAT IS A DIS-
EASE COMMON
TO CHERRY
TREES CALLED
"TENDU
BUSHY."

IT'S NOT
MISTLETOE
AT ALL.



OH,
YEAH,
THAT'S
ALL.

I just had
the
doctor
say that
there was
nothing

OH...
OK...
AAAAAY

SO BY
TALKING YOU
MEANT...



YOU'RE WORRIED
THAT YOU'RE A
PARASITE LIKE
MISTLETOE,
AREN'T YOU?

...SEE...



GLOOM

I HEARD
ABOUT
IT FROM
DICK.

THAT
WASN'T
A PARA-
SITE
ON THE
TREE.
THE
TREE
WAS SO
SICK...

...IT
COULD NOT
BLOSSOM
ON ITS
OWN...

BUT IT
WASN'T
DYING
BECAUSE
SOME PLANT
STOLE ITS
NUTRIENTS.

...BECAUSE
IT WAS
DYING.

おお





I'M THE
ONE WHO IS
RESPONSIBLE
FOR MY OWN
WEAKNESS



YOU DIDN'T
DO ANYTHING
WRONG, HAYATE

THE
CURSE
THAT THE
"KINGDOM"
IMPOSED
ON YOU...

...BECAUSE MY
RESPONSIBILITY
WHEN I ACCEPT
DO YOU AS MY
KONA-ON



I AM
IN NO
POSITION
TO TAKE ON
THE RESPONS-
IBILITY OF
OWNING A
ROMAN-
CIL.

IT'S
JUST AS
MUTSUKA
SAID.



I JUST
TOOK FOR
GRANTED
THAT YOU
WERE THERE
TO PROTECT
ME.

...NEVER
TOOK INTO
CONSIDER-
ATION
YOUR SUFFER-
ING.

BUT
I...



...I AM
SORRY.

FOR
MAKING YOU
SUFFER...



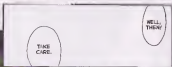
AMANE



SMILE

I JUST
CAME HERE
TO TELL YOU
THAT!

NO,
YUKI!



TAKE
CARE.

WELL,
THEN!



AAA
AAA

PASH



SAY
WHATEVER
YOU LIKE.
IT'S NOT GO-
ING TO CHANGE
THE FACT THAT
YOU'VE BEEN
DISCHARGED.

DON'T
GET TOO
DOWN,
KOTUE.

DAZED



ALTHOUGH I
THOUGHT THAT
WITH YEARS OF
TRAINING, SHE
WOULD FINALLY
BE ABLE TO USE
KOTODAMA.

19



SHE
DIDN'T
USE IT
ON YOU

KOTO-
DAMA
...

NOPE,
NOT AT
ALL.

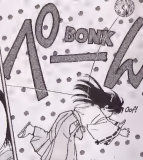


THAT
PRIN-
CESS
HAD A
LOT MORE
SPRIT
IN HER
THAN I'D
THOUGHT.

IF
IT IS
IMPOS-
SIBLE
NOW...
...
THERE'S
NO WAY
YOU CAN
SERVE HER
IN THE
FUTURE
EITHER.









YOU'VE
BEEN
USING IT,
HAVEN'T
YOU? ON
YOURSELF.

THAT'S
WHY YOU
COULDN'T
COUNTER-
ATTACK
MITSURU.

HOW LONG
HAVE YOU
BEEN USING
KOTOHAMA ON
YOURSELF?



HOW
LONG?





I CAN'T BE
AFRAID OF
THE RED MOON
FOREVER.



WHY
WOULD
YOU DO
SOME-
THING SO
STUPID?

WHAT
IS?

SINCE
...
...I
...FORE I
ARRIVED
ON THE
ISLAND.



RISE

I HAVE A
RESPONSIB-
ILITY.

THERE
WAS
NOTHING
ELSE I
COULD
DO.



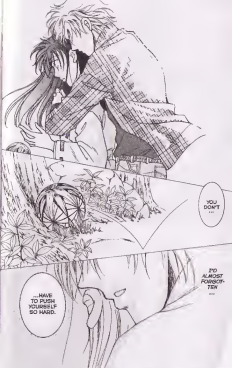
I HAVE TO
ENDURE IT

AND AS
YOUR
MAS-
TER...

AS THE
FUTURE
KOTO-
DAMATEI-
KAI...

...AND
THE
KEY
TO THE
CLAN...





YOU
DON'T

...

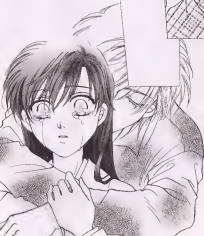
...HAVE
TO PUSH
YOURSELF
SO HARD.

IF I
ALMOST
FORGOT-
TEN

...

...NEVER
WAS VERY
GOOD AT
CRYING BY
HERSELF.

...SHE...





...WITH A
MASTER
LIKE YOU?



I
SWEAR

WHAT AM
I GOING
TO DO



AWAITING
YOUR
ORDERS...

...
MASTER.



I JUST WANT TO
HEAR YOUR WISH
AS MY MASTER,
JUNARE.

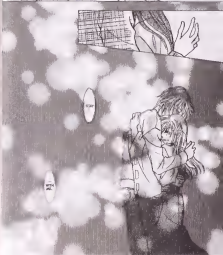
I DON'T
CARE IF YOU
ARE A KOTO-
DAMTSUKU
OR THE NEXT
CLAY FLOOR.



WHAT I
FEEL...

WHAT DO
YOU FEEL
INSIDE,
JUNARE-
CHAN?





AS YOU
WISH.





NOPE...

HUH, SO
AFTER ALL
IS SAID AND
DONE, THINGS
HAVE RE-
TURNED TO
NORMAL...



NO ...
SH- NO-
NO- RU ...



THERE
IS STILL
ONE
THING
THAT
WORRIES
ME.



Is that
what you
were talking
about?

AM I TO
UNDER-
STAND THAT
ALL OF
YOU WERE
SAYING ON
US??

What
were you
talking
about?



EVEN
YOU,
YU-
LIU??

It doesn't
seem like
all of us
are happy
about...

IF THEY
DON'T,
WE'D HAVE
GIVEN A
PROBLEM
ON OUR
HANDS.



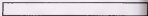
...HOW
MUCH MORE
HUMAN CAN
HE BECOME?

THE ONE
DEMON IN
OUR MIST
WHO IS
ALREADY SO
EXTREMELY
LIKE A HUMAN...



...THE
PROBLEM
STILL EXISTS

WHILE
THINGS
RETURNED
TO NOR-
MAL...



THAT DARK
I FOUND
MY LIGHT
AGAIN.



SO THAT
I WILL
BECOME
AMANE'S
LIGHT.

AT
LEAST

...SO SAE NO
LONGER HAS
TO BE AFRAID
AND CRY ON
MOONLIT
NIGHTS.



DOGFIGHT 22 Off Recording



I HAVE A
QUES-
TION!

SHOOP



What?

YES,
ATEND-
KUN!

QUESTION
CORNER

POINT!

Why?

THEN...

YEP.

WHEN
KOUR-KUN
BECAME
ARARE-
CHAN'S
KOMA

...ARARE-
CHAN WAS
8 YEARS
OLD,
RIGHT?

...ABOUT WHEN
DID THAT FORM
OF FEEDING
START?

SWOK

REMEMBER
HOW
ARARE-
CHAN

EUP!

...YOU COULD
BE GUILTY OF
LOVE.

TH...

THAT
IS...

I'M
HUNGRY...

8 years ago

MY NEW
MASTER

AND
SUFFICIENTLY
MUCH
POTENTIAL
BUT NOT THE
TRAINING TO
CONTROL IT.

...IT WAS
HARDLY
AN IDEAL
ARRANGE-
MENT.

AND
CONSIDERING
THAT SHE TOOK
ON A KONA-ONE
LIKE ME WITH
SUCH AN...
APPETITE...

YOU
SEE...

...THE
EXCHANGE
OF LIFE
FORCE...

...IS
MORE
THAN
JUST AN
ASSIG-
NMENT.
THERE IS
TECHNIQUE
INVOLVED.

TO PUT IT
BLUNTLY...

...IT'S
JUST NOT
ENOUGH
FOR ME.

SO
IT WAS
THAT I
WENT TO
LIVE WITH
ARANE.

...AND
THE DAYS
PASSED
QUICKLY
AFTER MAN-
ING ALBERT
WITH MY NEW
MASTER.

BUT I CAN'T
SAFELY BE
RECEIVING MY
NECESSARY
PORTION OF
LIFE FORCE
AS A US-
WARD.



WHAT WAS
I TO DO?

...I
COULD
BARELY
TAKE IT.

BUT
WONDER...



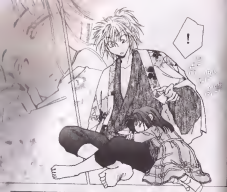
I WONDER
IF SHE'D GET
UPSET WITH
ME IF I ATE
A FEW
FISHBONE ...?



... I
COULDN'T
BRING
MYSELF TO
CON-
PLAIN OF
A PUNISH-
MENT TO
HER.



SEEING HOW
THE DAILY
CRASH-COURSE
TRAINING HAS
TAKEN HER
OUT.



RIGHT
NOW.

I
COULD
TAKE
SOME
LIFE FORCE
AND SHE
WOULDN'T
EVEN KNOW IT.





AND
IN MY
SITUA-
TION...

...THESE
BONES AL-
MOST THE
ONLY THING
I WOULD
EAT FOR
MUCH AND
BETTER
MEAT.

NO, NO,
NO! I CAN'T
START DOWN
THE PATH OF
THAT KIND OF
FOOD-ONLY!

WHOA!



THIS
TIME!
THIS TIME
I WILL CARRY
OUT MY
DUTIES FOR
MY MASTER
TO THE VERY
END!

PAGE

BUT...!

NO, NO!
I'M
STRONG!

BUT
I'M SO
HUNGRY...





YOU'RE
GOING
WITHOUT
FOOD!
REALLY?

Yeah,
I'm sorry.
Bakura, I'm
sorry...

SHOCK

1788

はあ！





AH?
YEAH...



ALL
BET-
TER?

?

?

What if
he really
was just
a cat?



I'M
GLAD.



So
slowly as
dust in
air...

I THINK
YOU DID
WELD YOUR
ROOFING AND
GO DOWN
THE WRONG
WAY!

...AN
EFFICIENT
METHOD OF
ABSORP-
TION HAS
WORKED
OUT.

AND
IN
THAT
WAY...